

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, AORC, PHSA, SENV, NAFO

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO)

SUMMARY

1. THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO) WAS HELD IN DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA, 15-19 SEPTEMBER 2003. MEMBERS OF THE USDEL ALSO PARTICIPATED IN A NAFO SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKSHOP ON GEOSTATISTICS IN FISHERIES DURING 10-12 SEPTEMBER 2003.

2. AMONG THE KEY DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MEETING, THE UNITED STATES: PROVIDED LEADERSHIP IN THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AND FISHERIES COMMISSION; CONTINUED TO PROMOTE STRONG CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND THE SETTING OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) LEVELS GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE ADVICE OF THE NAFO SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL; OBTAINED QUOTAS FOR 3M AND OCEANIC REDFISH, 3L SHRIMP, AND ILEX SQUID AND EFFORT ALLOCATIONS FOR 3M SHRIMP; TABLED PROPOSALS FOR A NATIONAL ALLOCATION OF DIV. 3LNO YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER AND PRECAUTIONARY CATCH LIMITS FOR THORNY SKATE IN THE NRA; LED EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AN INTERSESSIONAL MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH IN NAFO; AND PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS TO REFINE THE NAFO APPROACH TO ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, AND UNREPORTED (IUU) FISHING AND NAFO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (IPOA) TO PREVENT, DETER, AND ELIMINATE IUU FISHING. NAFO ELECTIONS ALSO TOOK PLACE FOR GENERAL COUNCIL, FISHERIES COMMISSION, AND TWO STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS. THE 26TH ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO WILL BE HELD IN HALIFAX, CANADA, SEPTEMBER 13-17, 2004.

NAFO MEMBERSHIP

3. ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES EXCEPT BULGARIA PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING (I.E. CANADA, CUBA, DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND), ESTONIA, EUROPEAN UNION, FRANCE (IN RESPECT OF ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON), ICELAND, JAPAN, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, NORWAY, POLAND, RUSSIA, UKRAINE AND THE UNITED STATES). NOTE: ALTHOUGH BULGARIA HAS REGAINED ITS CONTRACTING PARTY STATUS, IT IS NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE FISHERIES COMMISSION. ROMANIA WITHDREW FROM NAFO DURING 2003 AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OF NON-PARTICIPATION. FURTHER INFORMATION ON BULGARIA FOLLOWS.
END NOTE.

4. THE USDEL WAS LED BY MR. JOHN H. DUNNIGAN, DIRECTOR,

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS). THE USDEL ALSO INCLUDED THE TWO OTHER COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORS FROM NMFS, NOAA, STATE, THE USCG, THE FISHING INDUSTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY.

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

5. A SUMMARY OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AND TAC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2004 (AND IN SOME CASES FOR 2005) WAS PRESENTED TO THE FISHERIES COMMISSION BY THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL CHAIR, R.K. MAYO (USA).

6. THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ADVISED THE FISHERIES COMMISSION THAT MANY OF THE NAFO REGULATED STOCKS REMAINED AT OR NEAR RECORD LOW ABUNDANCE LEVELS AND THAT IMPOSED MORATORIA (I.E., NO DIRECTED FISHERIES) IMPLEMENTED IN EARLIER YEARS FOR THESE STOCKS BE CONTINUED IN 2004. FOR ALL BUT ONE OF THE 20 STOCKS FOR WHICH SCIENTIFIC ADVICE WAS REQUESTED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION, THE ADVICE PROVIDED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FOR 2004 WAS IDENTICAL TO THAT PROVIDED FOR 2003. ONLY THE ADVICE FOR GREENLAND HALIBUT IN SA 2 & DIV. 3KLMNO WAS DIFFERENT FOR 2004 THAN IT WAS FOR 2003.

7. THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ALSO RESPONDED TO FOUR SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR MANAGEMENT ADVICE FROM THE FISHERIES COMMISSION.

THESE REQUESTS RELATED TO: (1) THE FORMULATION OF ADVICE UNDER THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH; (2) ADVICE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF REDFISH IN DIV 30 IN 2004 AND 2005; (3) BIOLOGICAL AND FISHERY-RELATED INFORMATION ON THORNY SKATES IN DIV. 3LNO; AND (4) DISTRIBUTION AND STOCK IDENTITY INFORMATION ON PELAGIC REDFISH (SEBASTES MENTELLA) IN NAFO SUBAREAS 1-3 AND IN THE ADJACENT ICES AREA.

8. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL PRESENTED TO THE FISHERIES COMMISSION A SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED REVISED NAFO PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH FRAMEWORK ADOPTED AND REFINED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 2003.

9. THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL HELD A SPECIAL SESSION "WORKSHOP ON MAPPING AND GEOSTATISTICAL METHODS FOR FISHERIES STOCK ASSESSMENT" AT THE HOLIDAY INN, DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA FROM 10-12 SEPTEMBER 2003, PRIOR TO THE 25TH ANNUAL NAFO MEETING.

THE WORKSHOP, ATTENDED BY 28 SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEMBERS, WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING PARTICIPANTS WITH A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF GEOSTATISTICAL CONCEPTS AND METHODS AND FURNISHING THE TOOLS TO APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE TO FISHERIES STOCK ASSESSMENTS USING FREWARE MAPPING AND GEOSTATISTICAL SOFTWARE. A FULL REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP WILL SOON BE PUBLISHED AS A NAFO SC DOCUMENT AND MADE AVAILABLE ON THE NAFO WEBSITE.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2003 5-11 NOV. SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING ON
ASSESSMENT OF SHRIMP STOCKS, DARTMOUTH, CANADA

2004 3-17 JUNE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING,
DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

2004 8-10 SEP. SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION,
"THE ECOSYSTEM OF THE FLEMISH CAP", DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

2004 13-17 SEP. SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING AND 26TH
ANNUAL NAFO MEETING, DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

2004 TBA SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING ON
ASSESSMENT OF SHRIMP STOCKS, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (AT ICES HQ)

GENERAL COUNCIL

11. THE GENERAL COUNCIL ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES: THE CREATION OF A PERFORMANCE REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; NAFO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO IPOA TO PREVENT, DETER, AND ELIMINATE IUU FISHING; NON-CONTRACTING PARTY/STATELESS VESSEL FISHING IN THE NAFO REGULATORY AREA; DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES; AND FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATING TO THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR (WHICH ARE COVERED AT THE END OF THIS CABLE).

12. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REVIEW PROCESS: ALTHOUGH DR. JOHANNE FISCHER (EU) WAS SELECTED AS THE NEW NAFO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AT THE 2002 ANNUAL MEETING, NO PROCESS FOR CONTRACTING PARTY REVIEW OF HER PERFORMANCE (AND ANY RESULTING ANNUAL SALARY INCREASES) WAS ADOPTED AT THAT TIME. DURING THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING, THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL ADOPTED AND APPLIED A REVIEW PROCESS DEVELOPED BY ITS STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD) AND APPROVED FISCHER FOR A PERFORMANCE BONUS.

13. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO IPOAS: AT THE 1999 ANNUAL NAFO MEETING THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED THAT NAFO CONTRACTING PARTIES WHO WILL BE REPORTING ON THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHARK, SEABIRD, AND CAPACITY IPOAS TO FAO ALSO SUBMIT THAT INFORMATION TO NAFO. AT THE 2000 ANNUAL MEETING, IT WAS AGREED THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES SHOULD PROVIDE THEIR FAO REPORTS TO NAFO FOR INFORMATIONAL DISTRIBUTION. AT THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING, THE UNITED STATES URGED THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE NPOAS AND REPORT ANY PROGRESS TO NAFO.

14. AT THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING, THE GENERAL COUNCIL ONCE AGAIN DISCUSSED NAFO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO IPOA TO PREVENT, DETER, AND ELIMINATE IUU FISHING (IPOA-IUU). THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISHING ACTIVITIES OF NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES IN THE NAFO REGULATORY AREA (STACFAC) CONTINUED ITS REVIEW OF A PAPER PREPARED BY NORWAY INDICATING AREAS WHERE

NAFO SHOULD DO MORE WORK TO IMPLEMENT THE IPOA-IUU. STACFAC RECOGNIZED THAT STACTIC SHOULD ALSO CONDUCT A SIMILAR EXERCISE RELATING TO CONTRACTING PARTIES. BASED ON THIS REVIEW, STACFAC MADE EXTENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL COUNCIL ON HOW TO IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH THE IPOA-IUU. IT WAS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT STACFAC SHOULD CONDUCT INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS ON FURTHERING WORK ON THE IPOA-IUU BOTH BY ITSELF AND POSSIBLY IN A JOINT MEETING WITH STACTIC IN ORDER TO HARMONIZE MEASURES FOR NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES AND CONTRACTING PARTIES. THE GENERAL COUNCIL ADOPTED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS.

15. NON-CONTRACTING PARTY (NCP) FISHING: TO DATE, EIGHT NON-CONTRACTING PARTY VESSELS HAD BEEN SIGHTED IN THE NAFO REGULATORY AREA. FIVE WERE FLAGGED TO BELIZE, AND THE OTHERS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

16. STACFAC RECOMMENDED, AND THE GENERAL COUNCIL AGREED, THAT LETTERS OF DEMARCHE BE SENT FROM NAFO, THROUGH THE EU, TO BELIZE AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PURSUANT TO THE SCHEME TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE BY NCP VESSELS WITH THE CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES (THE SCHEME) ESTABLISHED BY NAFO. THE SCHEME CALLS FOR MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST NCP VESSELS SIGHTED FISHING IN THE NAFO REGULATORY AREA.

17. THE EU INTRODUCED AT STACFAC A PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE SCHEME TO, INTER ALIA, CREATE A PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING A LIST OF IUU VESSELS AND CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING TRADE SANCTIONS, THAT WOULD FLOW FROM THE PLACEMENT OF VESSELS ON THAT LIST. ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF THE EU PROPOSAL, THE US EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE SCHEME TO INCLUDE ANY VESSEL THAT POSSESSES NAFO SPECIES, NOT JUST VESSELS THAT HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN THE NAFO AREAS AS CURRENTLY CALLED FOR IN THE SCHEME. THE US AND JAPAN ALSO EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SCOPE OF THE TRADE MEASURES CONTEMPLATED BY THE SCHEME. IN ADDITION, THE US AND JAPAN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT ANY SUCH SCHEME CALLING FOR TRADE SANCTIONS CONTAINS EQUIVALENT MEASURES FOR CONTRACTING PARTIES. BECAUSE OF THESE RESERVATIONS AND OTHERS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF STACFAC, STACFAC DECIDED IT COULD NOT RECOMMEND ADOPTION, AT THIS TIME, OF THE PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, IT WAS AGREED IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL THAT THIS PROPOSAL COULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSED AT THE STACFAC/STACTIC INTERSESSIONAL.

18. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: AN EU REPRESENTATIVE PROVIDED A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 2003 CONSULTATIONS ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT (DSP) BETWEEN CANADA, THE EU, LATVIA, AND THE UNITED STATES. THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL THAT THE CONSULTATIONS HAD MOVED THE ISSUE FORWARD, BUT THAT FURTHER WORK IS NECESSARY BEFORE A RESOLUTION CAN BE REACHED ON A NAFO DSP PROCESS. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE SIDELINES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE 2003 CONSULTATIONS RECOMMENDED THAT AN INTERSESSIONAL MEETING TAKE PLACE DURING 2004. THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS ADOPTED BY

THE GENERAL COUNCIL, BUT NO DATE FOR THIS MEETING WAS SET.

FISHERIES COMMISSION

19. PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH: THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL CHAIRMAN PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION THE PROPOSED REVISED NAFO PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH FRAMEWORK DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL IN 2003. THE USG TABLED A STRONG PROPOSAL CALLING FOR FISHERIES COMMISSION ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED REVISED NAFO PA FRAMEWORK AND AGREEMENT TO HOLD AN INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE JOINT FISHERIES COMMISSION/SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE APPLICATION SCENARIOS FOR SPECIFIC NAFO STOCKS.

20. ALTHOUGH THE USG PROPOSAL HAD SUPPORT FROM CANADA AND OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES, THE EU AND JAPAN OPPOSED A MEETING OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP DURING 2003 BASED ON THE NAFO BUDGET AND TIME CONSTRAINTS. NO FURTHER WORK ON THIS ISSUE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION.

21. NOTE: OVER THE YEARS, CERTAIN FISHERIES COMMISSION MEMBERS (PARTICULARLY THE EU) HAVE CONTINUED TO STALL EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE USE OF THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH IN NAFO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DECISIONS. THE OUTSPOKEN EU DISDAIN THIS YEAR FOR A POTENTIAL JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING GIVEN RECENTLY ADOPTED PROVISIONS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S COMMON FISHERIES POLICY, WHICH CALL FOR CLOSE COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCIENCE AND POLICY ARMS WITH REGARD TO EC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH. FURTHER COMPOUNDING USG AND OTHERS' FRUSTRATION WERE REPEATED COMPLAINTS BY THE EU REPRESENTATIVE ON THE FLOOR OF THE MEETING REGARDING THE SLOW PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE WITHIN NAFO. END NOTE.

22. DURING THE 2003-2004 INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD, THE USG WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH STRONGLY FOR ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED REVISED PA FRAMEWORK AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION BY NAFO. THIS POINT WILL BE MADE AS APPROPRIATE IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MEETINGS WITH NAFO PARTIES, AND A DEMARCHE ON THIS ISSUE MAY BE FORTHCOMING.

23. STACTIC: MANY ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL CONTROL (STACTIC) WILL BE FURTHER ADDRESSED DURING STACTIC'S INTERSESSIONAL MEETING IN JUNE 2004. STACTIC FORMED A WORKING GROUP TO CONDUCT AN EVALUATION AND HARMONIZATION OF A PROPOSAL BY CANADA FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A STANDARDIZED PORT INSPECTION PROTOCOL, AND TWO PROPOSALS (BY CANADA AND EUROPEAN UNION) FOR MODIFICATION TO THE EXISTING OBSERVER AND SATELLITE TRACKING PROGRAMS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE WORKING GROUP WOULD MEET IN FEBRUARY 2004.

24. STACTIC AGREED TO REVISIT TWO ISSUES AT THE NEXT

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING: 1) THE ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PROCESS OF CARRYING OUT REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE BY THE NAFO SECRETARIAT (AS AGREED TO IN 2002); AND 2) A REVIEW OF THE INSPECTION PRESENCE IN THE NAFO REGULATORY AREA (AS REQUESTED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION).

25. STACTIC SUBMITTED FOR FISHERIES COMMISSION CONSIDERATION THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE OVERHAUL OF THE CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES AND THE PILOT PROJECT ON OBSERVERS, SATELLITE TRACKING AND ELECTRONIC REPORTING. BOTH ITEMS WERE APPROVED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

26. AT THE REQUEST OF THE FISHERIES COMMISSION, STACTIC REVIEWED A PROPOSAL TO MODIFY THE CHARTERING PROVISIONS OF THE CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON THE APPLICATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO THE CHARTERING OF SHRIMP QUOTA AND SHRIMP FISHING DAYS. IN ADDITION, LANGUAGE WAS AMENDED TO REFLECT THE ABILITY OF A FLAG STATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO HAVE ONE VESSEL IN THE FISHERY VERSUS THE LIMITATION OF ONE VESSEL PER CONTRACTING PARTY.

27. STACTIC ELECTED MR. MARTIN NEWMAN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND MR. MAD S NEDERGAARD OF DENMARK IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND AS CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN, RESPECTIVELY.

28. ALLOCATIONS: THE WORKING GROUP ON ALLOCATION OF FISHING RIGHTS LAST MET IN MIAMI, FLORIDA IN MARCH 2003, AND THE REPORT OF THIS MEETING WAS ADOPTED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION. WHILE THIS REPORT CONTAINED DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE ALLOCATION OF FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STOCKS NOT CURRENTLY ALLOCATED BY NAFO, THERE WAS NO RECOMMENDATION BY THE WORKING GROUP THAT THESE GUIDELINES BE ADOPTED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION. IN DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING THE REPORT, THE USG STATED ITS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE EXTREMELY NARROW SCOPE OF THESE GUIDELINES (WHICH WOULD APPLY ONLY TO STOCKS NOT CURRENTLY MANAGED BY NAFO) AND NOTED THE APPARENT LACK OF POLITICAL WILL WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION TO SERIOUSLY EXAMINE THE SHORTCOMINGS OF ITS ALLOCATION PROCESS. NO INTERSESSIONAL WORK ON ALLOCATION WILL TAKE PLACE DURING 2004.

29. THE BLOC QUOTA: DURING THE MARCH 2003 MEETING OF THE ALLOCATION WORKING GROUP IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, MEMBERS OF THE BLOC QUOTA (WHICH INCLUDES FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS: ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, AND RUSSIA) MET ON THE SIDELINES TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON THE LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF HOW TO DISTRIBUTE NAFO QUOTAS ALLOCATED TO THE FORMER USSR. RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE HAS BECOME PARTICULARLY URGENT GIVEN THE IMMINENT ACCESSION OF SOME OF THESE STATES INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION. AT THIS ANNUAL MEETING, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT A BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE ALLOCATIONS HAS BEEN AGREED AND THAT THE ISSUE IS RESOLVED. LAST MINUTE EFFORTS BY UKRAINE TO INSERT ITSELF INTO THIS DISTRIBUTION WERE DEFEATED.

30. CHARTERING: THE FISHERIES COMMISSION ONCE AGAIN REVIEWED

CHARTERING DATA AND DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF THE NAFO CHARTERING PROVISIONS (WHICH WOULD LAPSE WITHOUT FURTHER APPROVAL BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION). IN A CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS OPPOSITION TO CHARTERING, THE EU TABLED A PROPOSAL DETAILING NEW RULES FOR NAFO CHARTERING OPERATIONS. (NOTE: THIS REVERSAL IS LIKELY DUE TO THE IMMINENT ACCESSION OF ESTONIA AND LITHUANIA TO THE EU NEXT YEAR, BOTH OF WHOM ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN CHARTERING. END NOTE.) THIS PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION. THE USG RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR NAFO RULES GOVERNING CHARTERING, ALTHOUGH IT NOTED A PREFERENCE THAT NAFO PROVIDE MORE VIABLE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH QUOTA ALLOCATIONS.

31. 2004 TACS, MANAGEMENT MEASURES, AND ALLOCATIONS: BASED ON THE ADVICE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL, THE FISHERIES COMMISSION SET TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) LIMITS, EFFORT LIMITS AND OTHER MANAGEMENT MEASURES, AND MADE ALLOCATIONS TO CONTRACTING PARTIES FOR FISHING IN THE NAFO AREA IN 2004 (AND IN SOME CASES 2005). MORATORIA WERE CONTINUED FOR THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL STOCKS MANAGED BY TACS. ALSO CONTINUED FOR 2004 IS THE EFFORT LIMITATION SYSTEM IN PLACE FOR DIV. 3M SHRIMP.

32. AFTER INTENSE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE EU, CANADA, AND JAPAN, THE FISHERIES COMMISSION AGREED ON A 15-YEAR "REBUILDING PLAN" FOR GREENLAND HALIBUT IN SUBAREA 2 AND DIVS. 3KLMNO. THIS PLAN SETS A 20,000 MT TAC FOR 2004 AND THEN RATCHETS DOWN ANNUALLY TO REACH 16,000 MT BY 2007. THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL HAS EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE STATUS OF GREENLAND HALIBUT IN SUBAREA 2 AND DIVS. 3KLMNO AND THE SC ADVICE FOR THIS STOCK FOR 2004 WAS TO LIMIT THE TAC TO 16,000 MT. NOTE: THE NAFO ALLOCATION TABLE ENTRY SHOWS ALLOCATIONS FOR THE PORTION OF THIS STOCK FALLING WITHIN THE NAFO REGULATORY AREA (DIVS. 3LMNO), THUS THE 14,820 MT TAC SHOWN FOR THIS STOCK FOR 2004. THIS IS UNIQUE TO THIS STOCK. END NOTE.

33. A SUMMARY OF THE NAFO CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR 2004 FOLLOWS:

COD/DIV. 3M (FLEMISH CAP)	- NO DIRECT FISHING
COD/DIV. 3NO (TAIL)	- NO DIRECT FISHING
AMERICAN PLAICE/DIV. 3M	- NO DIRECT FISHING
AMERICAN PLAICE/DIV. 3LNO	- NO DIRECT FISHING
YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER/DIV 3LNO	- TAC SET AT 14,500 MT
WITCH FLOUNDER/DIV. 3NO (TAIL)	- NO DIRECT FISHING
CAPELIN/DIV. 3NO (TAIL)	- NO DIRECT FISHING
REDFISH/DIV. 3M (FLEMISH CAP)	- TAC SET AT 5,000 MT (CONTRACTING PARTIES

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REDFISH/DIV 3LN
OCEANIC REDFISH/SUBAREA 2
THE AND

DIV.

MEMBERS

GREENLAND HALIBUT (TURBOT) DIV. 3LMNO - TAC SET AT 14,820 MT

ILEX SQUID/SUBAREAS 3 & 4

SHRIMP/DIV. 3L (NOSE)

SHRIMP/DIV. 3NO (TAIL)

SHRIMP/DIV. 3M (FLEMISH CAP)

PROVIDE BIWEEKLY CATCH
REPORTS OF 3M REDFISH

THE NAFO SECRETARIAT.

MORE THAN 2500 MT MAY

FISHED BEFORE JULY 1,

THE FISHERY WILL BE

WHEN THE TAC IS

- NO DIRECT FISHING
- TAC SET 32,500 MT IN

DIV. 1F 3K NRA FOR AND

1F AND 3K NON-NEAFC

- TAC SET AT 34,000
MT. (WITH PROVISIONS
FOR AN INCREASE TO
75,000 IN HIGH
PRODUCTIVITY YEARS)

- TAC SET AT 13,000 MT

- NO DIRECTED FISHING

- EFFORT LIMITS
CONTINUED WITH
FISHING DAYS SET AT
90% OF THE MAXIMUM
NUMBER OF THOSE
OBSERVED BY
CONTRACTING PARTIES
FOR THEIR VESSELS IN
ONE OF THE YEARS
DURING 1993-1995;
EFFORT ALLOCATIONS
MAY BE TRANSFERRED
UNDER THE APPROVED
CHARTERING
PROVISIONS

34. FOR 2004, THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED QUOTA ALLOCATIONS OF
69 MT OF DIV. 3M REDFISH, 453 MT OF ILEX SQUID IN SUBAREAS 3
AND 4 (OFF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEWFOUNDLAND) AND 145 MT OF DIV.

3L SHRIMP. ADDITIONALLY, THE UNITED STATES MAY FISH ANY PORTION OF THE 7,500 MT TAC OF OCEANIC REDFISH AVAILABLE TO NON-NEAFC MEMBERS IN SUBAREA 2 AND DIVS. 1F AND 3K, ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. ALLOCATIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO US FISHERMEN IN THE "OTHERS" CATEGORY FOR: DIV. 3LNO YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER (73 MT) AND DIV. 3LMNO GREENLAND HALIBUT (985 MT).

35. ALSO CONTINUED FOR 2003 IS THE UNITED STATES EFFORT ALLOCATION OF DIV. 3M SHRIMP IN THE AMOUNT OF 100 FISHING DAYS FOR ONE VESSEL. CONTRACTING PARTIES MAY TRANSFER EFFORT ALLOCATIONS UNDER APPROVED CHARTERING PROVISIONS FOR 2003. ICELAND RESERVED THE RIGHT TO ONCE AGAIN OBJECT TO THE EFFORT LIMIT ALLOCATION SCHEME FOR 3M SHRIMP.

36. THE 2004 TAC FOR DIV. 3LNO YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER (THE PRINCIPAL SPECIES OF INTEREST TO THE USG) REMAINED AT 14,500 MT AS AGREED IN 2002. AS IN 2002, A USG REQUEST FOR A SMALL ALLOCATION OF DIV. 3LNO YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER WAS NOT ADOPTED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION. THIS PROPOSAL WAS BASED ON: THE RELATIVE GOOD HEALTH OF THE STOCK; A DEMONSTRATED US HISTORY OF FISHING FOR THIS STOCK IN THE NRA; AND ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE AGREED INCREASE IN TAC FOR THIS STOCK AT THE 2002 ANNUAL MEETING SHOULD HAVE BEEN SHARED AMONG ALL THOSE WITH A HISTORY IN THE FISHERY. NOTE: IN SIDE-BAR DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADIAN INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, THERE WAS SOME INDICATION THAT A TRANSFER OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER FROM CANADA TO THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. A FOLLOW-UP CABLE REGARDING THESE DISCUSSIONS AND OTHER RELEVANT ASPECTS OF THE 2003 ANNUAL NAFO MEETING IS FORTHCOMING. END NOTE.

37. IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES TABLED A STRONG PROPOSAL FOR PRECAUTIONARY MANAGEMENT MEASURES (LIMITATIONS ON CATCHES) FOR SKATES IN THE DIV. 3LNO. THE US PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO COINCIDE FOR WITH A FISHERIES COMMISSION REQUEST TO THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT OF SKATES IN DIVS. 3LNO, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE MOST APPROPRIATE TAC FOR 2005 AND 2006. WHILE THE US PROPOSAL WAS NOT ADOPTED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION, THE INFORMATION AND ADVICE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AT THE 2004 NAFO MEETING SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE USG ARGUMENT FOR MANAGEMENT OF SKATES IN DIVS. 3LNO.

NAFO ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

38. IN RESPONSE TO A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD), NAFO APPROVED A BUDGET FOR 2004 OF CDN\$ 1,500,000 (APPROXIMATELY USD 1,125,000), A 7.6% INCREASE FROM 2003. OF THIS TOTAL BUDGET, THE PRELIMINARY U.S. ASSESSMENT FOR 2004 WILL BE CDN\$ 221,416 (APPROXIMATELY USD 166,062). THE

PRELIMINARY NAFO BUDGET FORECAST FOR 2005 IS CDN\$ 1,448,000.

39. A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THIS INCREASE IS TO FUND PERSONNEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES UNDER A THREE-YEAR PLAN TO MODERNIZE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE NAFO SECRETARIAT. UNDER THE PLAN, INVESTMENTS IN 2004 WILL LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT COST-SAVINGS BY 2006. THE 2004 INCREASE IS ALREADY OFFSET BY SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAS ALREADY ACHIEVED THROUGH INCREASED USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND INTERNET-DISSEMINATION OF PUBLICATIONS. THE 2004 INCREASE WILL FUND THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR NAFO AND SC MEETINGS, WHICH NOW MUST BE RENTED, AND RECLASSIFICATION OF TWO NAFO STAFF POSITIONS TO REFLECT INCREASED DUTIES MANAGING NAFO'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND OVERSEEING STATISTICAL INFORMATION. STACFAD ALSO APPROVED THE CREATION OF A NEW PART-TIME STAFF POSITION TO COMPILE AND ANALYZE COMPLIANCE INFORMATION; THIS POSITION WOULD BE CONVERTED TO A FULL-TIME REPLACEMENT OF AN EXISTING STAFF MEMBER UPON HIS RETIREMENT OF EARLY IN 2005.

40. THE 2004 BUDGET ALSO INCLUDES THE FIRST OF A THREE-YEAR DISBURSEMENT OF BACK PAY TO FOUR SECRETARIAT CLERICAL EMPLOYEES WHOSE PAY WAS FROZEN PENDING THE DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICABILITY OF A TREASURY BOARD OF CANADA DECISION GRANTING CANADIAN PUBLIC SERVICE CLERICAL WORKERS A PAY EQUITY SETTLEMENT. THE PAY EQUITY CLAIM WAS DROPPED.

41. THE UNITED STATES ADVISED STACFAD OF U.S. DIFFICULTIES PAYING ITS FULL 2003 ASSESSMENT AS A RESULT OF THE \$2.8 MILLION SHORTFALL IN CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS. THE UNITED STATES WAS ONLY ABLE TO PAY HALF OF ITS ASSESSMENT. STACFAD THEREFORE AGREED TO WITHHOLD MORE OF NAFO'S ACCUMULATED SURPLUS ACCOUNT TO COVER OPERATING EXPENSES IN THE BEGINNING OF 2004. NORMALLY, THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS WOULD BE USED TO REDUCE CONTRACTING PARTY BILLINGS IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR. STACFAD DID DETERMINE, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE UNITED STATES WAS ABLE TO MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2003, NAFO WOULD APPLY MORE OF THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS TO REDUCE 2004 BILLINGS.

42. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

- 2004: 13-17 SEPTEMBER
- 2005: 12-16 SEPTEMBER
- 2006: 11-15 SEPTEMBER

ALL WILL BE HELD IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA UNLESS A CONTRACTING PARTY OFFERS TO HOST IN THE MEANTIME.

43. THE FOLLOWING ELECTIONS OF NAFO OFFICERS TOOK PLACE:

- GC CHAIR DAVID BEVAN, CANADA
- GC VICE-CHAIR TERJE LOBACH, NORWAY
- FC CHAIR DEAN SWANSON, USA (REELECTED)
- FC VICE-CHAIR BORIS PRISCHEPA, RUSSIA (REELECTED)

- STACTIC CHAIR MARTIN NEWMAN, EU
- STACTIC VICE-CHAIR MADS NEDERGAARD, DENMARK IN RESPECT
OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND

- STACFAD CHAIR FRED KINGSTON, EU (REELECTED)
- STACFAD VICE-CHAIR DEIRDRE WARNER-KRAMER, USA
(REELECTED)
POWELL
BT
#7171